

In the claims:

All of the claims standing for examination are reproduced below with appropriate status indication.

Cancel claims 1-28

29. A system for authenticating a user of a network, comprising:

a network-connected verification server for performing the authentication; and

a network-connected appliance operable by the user for sending a request for authentication;

wherein the request for authentication comprises a network destination for at least one site requiring log-in by the user, and a username-password pair for the user, and the server, in response to the request, causes navigation to the at least one site and a login attempt with the username-password pair, successful login comprising authentication.

30. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein the network is the Internet network.

31. (New) The system of claim 30 wherein the verification server is a first server, and the request is sent from the appliance to a second server, which forwards at least a portion of the request to the first server, and the first

server returns an indication of verification after causing the navigation and log-in attempt.

32. (New) The system of claim 29 wherein all or a portion of the request is compared against stored user profile data for verification purposes.

33. (New) The system of claim 30 wherein the request comprises a plurality of sites and username-password pairs for the sites, and authentication is a relative number based on log-in results.

34. (New) A method for authenticating a user of a network, comprising steps of:

(a) accepting by a server a network destination and a username-password pair as an authentication request from a user;

(b) causing, by the server, navigation to the at least one site and a login attempt with the username-password pair; and

(c) reporting an indication of authenticity according to success or failure of the login attempt.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the network is the Internet network.

36. (New) The method of claim 34 wherein the server is a first server, and the request is sent from the appliance to a second server, which forwards at least a portion of the request to the first server, and the first server returns

the indication of authenticity after causing the navigation and log-in attempt.

37. (New) The method of claim 34 wherein all or a portion of the request is compared against stored user profile data for verification purposes.

38. (New) The method of claim 34 wherein the request comprises a plurality of sites and username-password pairs for the sites, and authentication is a relative number based on log-in results.